

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for selecting at least one financial strategy from a plurality of financial strategies to achieve at least one financial goal, each financial strategy comprising an asset allocation, comprising the steps of:

receiving investor financial preferences regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

determining financial projections for each financial strategy based on the rates of return for each respective financial strategy;

determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

determining a utility score for each financial strategy based on the plurality of the attribute measures for each respective financial strategy and the investor financial preferences regarding the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal; and

selecting at least one of the financial strategies from the plurality of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the plurality of financial strategies.

3. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, further comprising: storing the rates of return in a time series database of rates of return for each of the financial strategies.

4. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein the step of determining a utility score comprises using a software-implemented decision analysis based on multi-attribute utility theory.

5. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting the financial strategy having a highest utility score.

6. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 4, further comprising:

determining a goals hierarchy for the at least one financial goal;

determining a single utility function for each attribute of the at least one financial goal;

determining a weight for each attribute; and

determining a weight for each of the at least one financial goal;

wherein the utility score for each financial strategy is determined based on the single-utility functions, the weights for the attributes, and the weights for the financial goals.

7. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 6, wherein the at least one financial goal, the attributes, the single utility functions, and the weights for the attributes are determined using input provided by a financial planner.

8. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 6, wherein the weight for the at least one financial goal is determined using the investor financial preferences, input provided by a financial planner, or a combination of financial preferences provided by an investor and input provided by a financial planner.

9. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein receiving investor financial preferences comprises the step of receiving financial preferences provided by an investor.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein receiving investor financial preferences comprises the step of receiving input provided by a financial planner.

11. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein receiving investor financial preferences comprises the step of receiving a combination of financial preferences provided by an investor and input provided by a financial planner.

12. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy using a heuristic based on investor financial preferences.

13. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy using a heuristic based on financial variables related to the financial strategies.

14. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy using a heuristic based on investor financial preferences, financial variables related to the financial strategies, and utility scores determined for the financial strategies.

15. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein each financial strategy is determined from a multi-dimensional matrix of at least one financial variable and stored on a computer-readable medium, the multi-dimensional matrix having a plurality of cells, each cell in the multi-dimensional matrix corresponding to one of the financial strategies.

16. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein each financial strategy further comprises a product mix and a likelihood of success for achieving at least one of an investment of assets, an accumulation of assets, or a withdrawal of assets.

17. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein the asset allocation comprises an allocation of at least one of stocks, bonds, or short-term securities.

18. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 16, wherein the product mix comprises a mix of at least one of a mutual fund or a variable annuity.

19. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein at least one financial strategy includes at least one of the following: periodic withdrawal; inflation adjustment; minimal required distributions; an ordered withdrawal strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; an ordered annuity purchase strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; periodic tax adjustment; periodic shifting of asset allocations; periodic rebalancing of assets to align with a current asset allocation; re-investment of excess annuity payments; reinvestment of excess minimal required distributions; investor contributions; asset management fees; staggered investor account starts; or MRD mortality rules.

20. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one financial goal is related to retirement financial goals.

21. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of providing a questionnaire for an investor, the questionnaire for determining investor financial preferences.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of creating a report describing the ~~the~~ step of selecting at least one of the financial strategies and the selected at least one of the financial strategies.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium ~~having software for performing the method of claim 2~~ having computer-executable instructions for selecting at least one financial strategy from a plurality of financial strategies to achieve at least one financial goal, each financial strategy comprising an asset allocation, the computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for receiving investor financial preferences regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

instructions for performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

instructions for generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

instructions for determining financial projections for each financial strategy based on the rates of return for each respective financial strategy;

instructions for determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

instructions for determining a utility score for each financial strategy based on the plurality of the attribute measures for each respective financial strategy and the investor financial preferences regarding the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal; and

instructions for selecting at least one of the financial strategies from the plurality of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the plurality of financial strategies.

26. (Currently amended) A computer system for ~~performing the method of claim 2~~
selecting at least one financial strategy from a plurality of financial strategies to achieve at least one financial goal, each financial strategy comprising an asset allocation, the computer system comprising:

means for receiving investor financial preferences regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

means for performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

means for generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

means for determining financial projections for each financial strategy based on the rates of return for each respective financial strategy;

means for determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

means for determining a utility score for each financial strategy based on the plurality of the attribute measures for each respective financial strategy and the investor financial preferences regarding the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal; and

means for selecting at least one of the financial strategies from the plurality of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the plurality of financial strategies.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A computer system for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, the computer system comprising:

means for storing investor information regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

means for storing a plurality of financial strategies, each financial strategy including an asset allocation;

means for performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

means for generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

a software-implemented projection engine that determines financial projections for each of the financial strategies using the rates of return;

means for determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

a software-implemented preference model incorporating the investor information;

means for determining a utility score for each of the financial strategies using the preference model and the plurality of attributes measures for each respective financial strategy;
and

means for selecting at least one of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the financial strategies.

30. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having ~~software~~ computer-executable instructions for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, the at least one financial strategy including an asset allocation, the computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for receiving investor financial preferences regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

instructions for performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

instructions for generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

instructions for determining financial projections for each financial strategy based on the rates of return for each respective financial strategy;

instructions for determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

instructions for determining a utility score for each financial strategy based on the plurality of the attribute measures for each respective financial strategy and the investor financial preferences regarding the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal; and

instructions for selecting at least one of the financial strategies from the plurality of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the plurality of financial strategies.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one financial goal includes college tuition financial goals.

33. (Currently amended) A computer system ~~for performing the computer-implemented method of claim 20~~ according to claim 26, wherein the at least one financial goal is related to retirement financial goals.

34. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 30, wherein at least one financial strategy includes at least one of the following: periodic withdrawal; inflation adjustment; minimal required distributions; an ordered withdrawal strategy based on tax

characteristics of the assets; an ordered annuity purchase strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; periodic tax adjustment; periodic shifting of asset allocations; periodic rebalancing of assets to align with a current asset allocation; re-investment of excess annuity payments; reinvestment of excess minimal required distributions; investor contributions; asset management fees; staggered investor account starts; or MRD mortality rules.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy comprises:

constructing a covariance matrix for the asset allocation of each respective financial strategy based on each of a plurality of sub-asset classes of the asset allocation of each financial strategy;

determining deviations for a zero rate of return obtained from the plurality of Monte Carlo simulations; and

combining the covariance matrix for the asset allocation, deviations for a zero rate of return obtained from the plurality of Monte Carlo simulations, and an average rate of return for each sub-asset class to obtain the rates of return for each respective financial strategy.

40. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations comprises:

for each of a plurality of sub-asset classes of the asset allocation of each financial strategy, determining a probability distribution for the sub-asset class based on at least one of historical data of the sub-asset class or input provided by a financial planner.

41. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein the probability distribution is a Gaussian probability distribution.

42. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy which does not have a highest utility score.